

Pretty soon they will be able to make it say anything they want it to say, and then we will all be in trouble.

The Grinch may have already stolen Christmas. Let us keep him from stealing the Constitution too.

□ 1045

COMMITTEE FOR STIMULUS PACKAGE NEEDS TO MEET

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the President and many national leaders are asking us to stimulate the economy by putting together a package and presenting it to the President for his signature. Some may remember it was this House that passed the so-called stimulus package, but what was in it? Hundreds of billions of dollars of corporate tax cuts, and little if no notice was given to the hundreds of thousands of people that are unemployed. That is the Republican stimulus package. Yet Members are ridiculing the Senate for not moving. What they fail to realize is that the leadership of the committee is not on the Senate side. The chairmanship of the committee comes from the House side from the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, it would seem to me that if we were serious about doing something, the committee would have a meeting. What most Americans and Members do not know, we have not met since last Wednesday. If there is an urgency, let us not blame the Senate. Let us find out where the blame is, and have Members of Congress not having press conferences or fund-raisers, but coming together trying to resolve this difference.

MUSIC INDUSTRY NOT HELPING PARENTS

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, recently the Federal Trade Commission released a study on the marketing practices of different sectors of the entertainment industry. The report finds movie and video game companies have made "commendable" progress since last year, placing limits on ads for violent games and movies in popular teen media and disclosing those ratings in its ads.

Regrettably, however, the commission found that only the music industry continues to place no restrictions on what materials it can market to underaged children in magazines, on TV, radio and over the Internet.

While the music industry labels its products, one of the FTC commissioners stated it correctly: "I think it is hypocritical for the music industry to claim it is helping parents by plac-

ing a parental label on CDs, while at the same time undermining parents by aggressively marketing the same CD to children."

When industry fails to institute meaningful self-regulation and act responsibly, I, both as a parent and a member of the community, believe government has an obligation.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINATIONS

(Ms. SANCHEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage Members to join me in nominating two revered Vietnamese spiritual leaders for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Monday was International Human Rights Day. In accepting his Nobel Peace Prize on its 100th anniversary, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan urged all nations to focus more on human rights in a quest to end poverty, prevent conflicts, and to foster democracy.

It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to join me in asking the Nobel Peace Prize Selection Committee to nominate the Most Venerable Thich Quang Do and Father Van Ly of Vietnam for the Nobel Peace Prize.

The Most Venerable Thich Quang Do is the secretary-general of the banned Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam. Since June 2001, he has been under house arrest for announcing his intention to escort the ailing 83-year-old Buddhist patriarch Thich Huyen Quang to Ho Chi Minh City for urgently needed medical attention.

Similarly, earlier this year, Father Ly was placed under house arrest and banned from running his church for providing testimony to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, which urged this Congress to do something about human rights and religious persecution in Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their leadership and sacrifice, I urge my colleagues to join me in signing this letter to the U.N.

SUPPORT CALL TO SERVICE ACT

(Mr. OSBORNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, since the events of September 11, our country has witnessed a surge of patriotism and a desire to serve. This morning the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD) and I introduced the Call to Service Act which attempts to harness some of this energy.

I would like to emphasize three parts of this act which are particularly noteworthy. Number one, the act provides service opportunities all across the country, particularly in rural and underserved areas. An example is incen-

tives for teachers to stay in rural and underserved areas.

Secondly, the act creates a new short-term military service category: 18 months of active duty and 18 months of reserve duty. These troops will provide security at airports, bridges, nuclear facilities, and our Nation's borders. They would also provide technical assistance in case of a health emergency caused by bioterrorism.

Lastly, the Call to Service Act will create thousands of opportunities to provide mentoring and tutoring for children who are desperately in need of a caring adult role model. Senior citizens will be especially helpful in this endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support the Call to Service Act.

STIMULUS PACKAGE NEEDED TO HELP UNEMPLOYED, NOT JUST THE WEALTHY

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Federal Reserve cut short-term interest rates for the eleventh time in as many months. However, the U.S. economy continues to grow weaker. Last month the Nation's unemployment rate hit a 6-year high of 5.7 percent. Industry production appears to be at its weakest level in 20 years. Factories are operating at the lowest levels of capacity since 1983.

These statistics translate into Americans losing jobs, and with them the means to obtain health care, food and shelter. The Latino community for example is the fastest growing segment of the workforce, but is one of the most vulnerable, as many Latino workers are concentrated in low-wage industries with unsteady work.

Mr. Speaker, it is good, commonsense public policy to stimulate the economy by putting money in the hands of people who need it most and who will spend it immediately. This action increases the demand for goods and services, which is the only way to get our Nation's business, all of the businesses, investing, producing, and hiring again. Congress must pass a stimulus package that helps the unemployed, not only the wealthy.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL NEEDED

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, more than a month ago this House passed a much-needed economic stimulus package; but, unfortunately, America waits. American families have been waiting for the Democratic leadership in the other body to act; waiting for the relief to spur on economic investment; waiting for additional Federal assistance so

small businesses can obtain loans to keep their doors open and people employed; waiting for expanded health care and unemployment benefits for those in the tourism industry who have been laid off since September 11.

Mr. Speaker, like all Americans, Nevadans have waited too long for the Democratic leadership to start putting the welfare of this Nation and its economic prosperity ahead of their political priorities. It is time for an economic stimulus package to be passed by both Chambers of Congress and sent to the President and signed into law. America's economy, stability, and the individual prosperity of every American depends on it. Let us do it now.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The Chair would remind Members that remarks in debate may not include characterizations of Senate action or inaction.

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT BIRTH OF CHRIST

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the school prayer issue is out of control, literally. Students in Pennsylvania were prohibited from handing out Christmas cards. Reports say students in Minnesota were disciplined for having said merry Christmas. Now if that is not enough to find coal in your athletic supporter, check this out: A school board in Georgia removed the word "Christmas" from their school calendar because the ACLU threatened to sue. Beam me up. If this is religious freedom, I am a fashion model for GQ.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the fact that Christmas is not about a jolly old fat man. Christmas is about the birth of Christ.

A JOB WELL DONE

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in 1984 the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) and myself were elected to Congress from adjoining districts. He started out sleeping in his congressional office, and I started out picketing then-majority leader Jim Wright, which the gentleman from Texas helped me do. He went on to become conference chairman of the Republican Conference and when the Republicans became the majority, majority leader.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) is a man of big ideas. It was his bill that began to streamline our military base positions in this country. He is also a supporter of school vouchers

and flat taxes. He came from can-do North Dakota, and he brags about that even though he now lives in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) did come, he did do. I say well done to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY).

REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS OF SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, there are three good reasons we should reject the recent recommendations of the Social Security commission, this commission that has said that we should move in the direction of privatizing Social Security.

The first is the commission was stacked with individuals who had a preconceived notion of the outcome. Second, the commission recommends private accounts but does not take into consideration the cost. Many observers believe converting Social Security to private accounts would cost \$1 trillion. Where is that money to come from? Out of Social Security, of course.

And finally, private accounts invested in the market are risky investments. We only need to look at our recent downturn to see how risky these investments are. Are we going to throw people out on the streets in their golden years because they have lost their retirements in the market? I certainly hope not.

COMFORT THE KIDS

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of two Arizona families, the Porter family and the Rogers family. Following the September 11 attacks, Steve and Liz Porter and Todd and Mikki Rogers wanted to help those affected by the tragedies.

Together, these two families created a project called Comfort the Kids. Their goal was lofty, to create 10,000 small red, white and blue quilts for the children who have suffered family losses by the end of the year. They were not alone in their efforts. Their Web site, www.ComforTheKids.org, is currently receiving an average of one hit per minute. School districts, Boy Scouts and countless other families and individuals are joining them in their efforts. These quilts will not only comfort the recipient, but will serve as a hand-made symbol of compassion. I thank the Porter family and the Rogers family for their diligence and hard work, and commend them for their efforts. They represent the best of America.

SAVE AMERICAN STEEL INDUSTRY

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today steelworkers from across the United States have come to Washington to ask our House to recognize their plight and the plight of U.S. Steel. Today the United States steel industry is faltering and in danger of collapse. Tens of thousands of men and women who have helped to secure the defense of this country through their work in creating and making this product called steel are in danger of losing their jobs and having their whole way of life be destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this country to ask itself whether or not it is in our national interest and in the interest of our national defense to maintain our steel industry; or shall we become dependent on foreign steel, the same way we are dependent on foreign oil.

This House will have an opportunity before we complete our business to address the issues, to give the steelworkers some relief, to make it possible for steel loan guarantees to be more widely applicable, to give an opportunity for net operating loss to put cash into steel companies so they can keep going. This Congress has an obligation to carry forth for the future of this country our ability to make steel.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Members are again reminded not to characterize the actions of the Senate.

CALLING FOR LEGISLATION TO AID THE STEEL INDUSTRY

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues have talked about before we go home, we must pass a stimulus package. I agree that we cannot go home without doing something for the people who have lost their jobs as a result of the recession and the attack on our country. And we must do something for the steelworkers so they do not become part of the people collecting unemployment insurance in our community. We have to protect the retirees for the health benefits that they are currently receiving.

We need to do this because the price of steel in this country is below cost, international cost, because our trade policies have allowed dumped, subsidized steel to come into the United States. Our own trade policy has reduced capacity so we have what is known as legacy cost, high cost for the steel industry for retirees.

This House, this body, must pass legislation helping the steel industry before we leave town. It is our responsibility to do it. We must create a level playing field. If we do, steel in the